ASTONISHING STORIES OF THE SUPERNATURAL

JAN. NO. 8

10¢

ON SALE EVERY MONTH

# Astonishing

10¢

ATLAS

WHAT NAMELESS HORROR LURKS

"BEHIND THE WALL!"

TALES TO TERRIFY YOU!

THE HANGING TERROR!

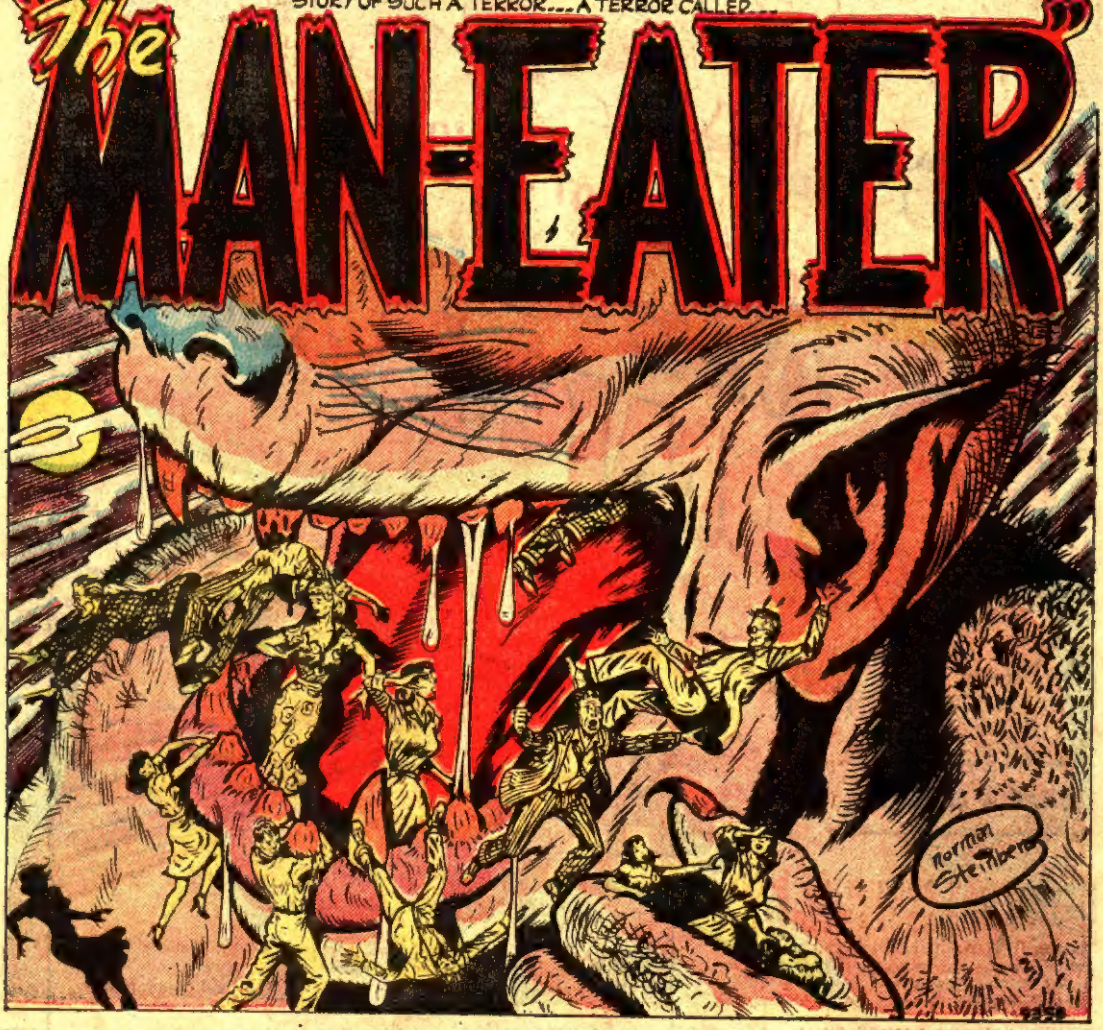
THE FINGER!

THE MAN-EATER!

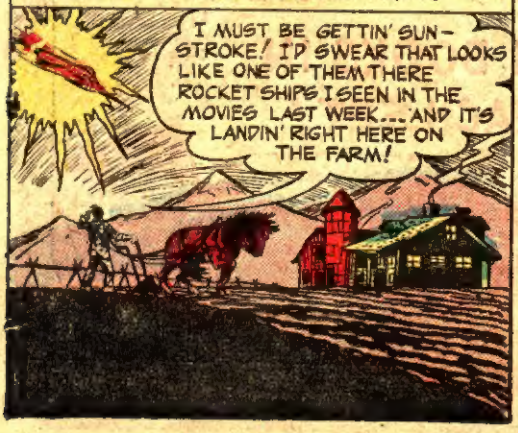
RUSS HEATH

IMAGINE THE WORST TERROR YOU CAN NAME... WHAT CAN YOU CALL IT? IT'S A NAMELESS FEAR, ISN'T IT?---A FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN! THIS IS A STORY OF SUCH A TERROR---A TERROR CALLED...

# "The MAN-EATER"




THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT BEGAN THE NAMELESS HORROR COULD HAVE BEGUN ANY PLACE! FATE DESTINED THAT IT WOULD BEGIN ON THE FARM-LAND OF BOB TURNER ON THE DAY THAT HE FELT HIS EYES WERE PLAYING TRICKS ON HIM...


I MUST BE GETTIN' SUN-STROKE! I'D SWEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THEM THERE ROCKET SHIPS I SEEN IN THE MOVIES LAST WEEK... AND IT'S LANDIN' RIGHT HERE ON THE FARM!

SUNSTROKE? IMAGINATION GONE WILD? THERE COULD BE NO OTHER ANSWER FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! THE DOORS OF THE STRANGE SHIP OPENED... AND OUT CAME...

WEIRD, WRAITH-LIKE CREATURES, NEITHER ANIMAL NOR HUMAN, FLOATED OUT OF THE STRANGE SHIP TOWARD THE SCREAMING FARMER!
AAAAEEEEEHHH!!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!!
LAND O' GOSHEN, BOB TURNER, WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU WITH ALL THAT HOLLERIN' AND RUNNIN'?
MARTHA! CALL THE POLICE! CALL SOMEBODY! QUICK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT IT'S SOMETHIN' AWFUL!
NOW HOLD ON TO YOURSELF, DEARIE! YOU BEEN A-WORKIN' TOO HARD AND SEEIN' THINGS! YOU BEEN AT THE CORN LIKKER JUG AGAIN?
I SWEAR I AIN'T TOUCHED A DROP! I SEEN 'EM WITH MY OWN EYES, I TELL YUH! THEY CAME OUTTA A SPACE-SHIP... LOOKIN' LIKE NUTHIN' YUH EVER SEEN BEFORE... LIKE... LIKE...
--- LIKE THAT!!
EEEEEEEEEEEHH!!
THEIR SCREAMS WERE SOON STILLED! THE VILE CREATURES SILENTLY POUNCED ON THEM AND DID THEIR GRUESOME WORK QUICKLY...
IN A FEW MINUTES THE APPETITES OF THE MAN-EATERS WERE SATISFIED AND THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT BONES! THEN THEY LEFT TO LOOK FOR MORE VICTIMS...

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! THE MAN-EATERS VANISHED, BUT THE NEXT DAY THE REMAINS OF MORE VICTIMS WERE FOUND IN SAN FRANCISCO...NEW YORK...CHICAGO...

THE LIST WENT ON AND ON, UNABATED! TERROR...INSIDIOUS, HORRIFYING, SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LAND!

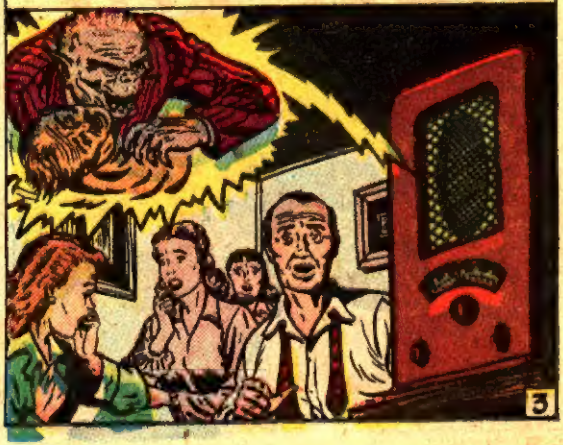
WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO ALL THIS? WHY DON'T THE POLICE DO SOMETHING?
THE MYSTERIOUS KILLINGS GO ON DAY AFTER DAY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT! AS YET THE AUTHORITIES HAVE FOUND NOT A SINGLE CLUE! ARE WE ALL TO BE MURDERED AND EATEN?
EXTRA
THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS CLAIMED BY UNKNOWN KILLERS!
CITIZENS SLAUGHTERED BY MYSTERIOUS SCAVENGERS! ONLY BONES LEFT!

THEN AT LAST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION! ON AUGUST 18TH, MALLORY CLYDE, CHIEF OF THE SCIENCE BUREAU, ADDRESSED THE NATION!

FELLOW AMERICANS, WE ARE ALL IN DANGER! AS FAR AS WE CAN DISCOVER, WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY A FORCE FROM SOME OTHER WORLD! THE MAN-EATERS! THEY ARE A HORRIBLE, CARNIVOROUS THREAT AND DANGER TO US ALL! THEY STRIKE...AND VANISH! BUT HERE IS THE WORST FACT OF ALL...

...WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THEY CAN ASSUME HUMAN SHAPES--IN FACT--CAN ASSUME ANY HUMAN SHAPE...EVEN THOSE PERSONS NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU! THE MAN-EATERS CAN BE YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBORS...EVEN MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN FAMILY! BEWARE! STAY HIDDEN FROM EACH OTHER UNTIL THIS DANGER IS OVER! THIS IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY!

THROUGHOUT ALL AMERICA, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HEARD THAT AWFUL SCREAM AS THE MAN-EATERS CLAIMED ANOTHER VICTIM! THEY HEARD, AND LOOKED IN HORROR AT THEIR NEIGHBORS!



LIFE WAS NOW A NIGHTMARE! EVERYONE WAS SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE ELSE! NO ONE WAS SAFE...AND NO ONE WAS ABOVE SUSPICION! BROTHER HID FROM BROTHER... AND STILL THE KILLINGS WENT ON!

BUT SOME PEOPLE WENT ABOUT THEIR EVERY-DAY BUSINESS! AMONG THESE WAS A GROUP OF PASSENGERS FOR A FLORIDA-BOUND BUS!

ALL ABOARD! FLORIDA BUS READY TO LEAVE IN TEN MINUTES!

OH, HENRY, I DO HOPE NONE OF THOSE...THOSE... THINGS ARE RIDING WITH US!

EVERYBODY LOOKS FAIRLY NORMAL AND...HENRY! LOOK! THAT GIRL IN THE BUS! SO STIFF...AND QUIET!

YES! I'M LOOKING!

DRIVER...THAT GIRL... WHERE'D SHE COME FROM? DID YOU SEE HER GET ON?

NO...I DIDN'T! STRANGE LOOKING, ISN'T SHE?

DO--DO YOU THINK SHE COULD BE ONE OF...OF... THEM?

EACH PASSENGER THAT GOT ON NOTICED THE EXOTIC WOMAN SEATED BY HERSELF...AND EACH FELT THE TERROR CREEP OVER THEIR FLESH...

SHE'S ONE, I TELL YOU! NO HUMAN BEING COULD LOOK LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT...WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT? HI, PHIL! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

FIRST TIME ANY DRIVER WAS GLAD TO SEE A COMPANY COP RIDE WITH HIM! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, JIMMY?

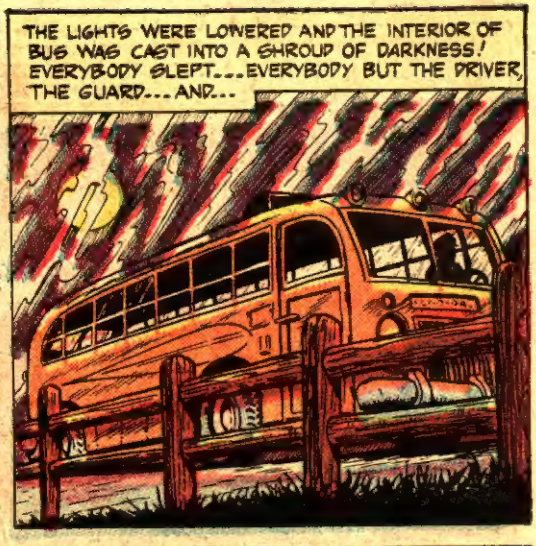
THE DRIVER HASTILY WHISPERED HIS SUSPICIONS TO PHIL MURPHY! THE GUARD TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE GIRL AND SAID...

FOLKS! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! I'M HERE SO THAT YOU'LL HAVE A SAFE RIDE AND GET TO YOUR DESTINATIONS OKAY! I'M A COMPANY GUARD AND I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THESE THINGS, SO RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR RIDE! LET'S GO, JIM!

AH! THAT'S A RELIEF! SHE WON'T TRY ANYTHING NOW!

I...I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE! BUT I GUESS IT'S OKAY!

THE BUS ROLLED ON THROUGH THE NIGHT AND THE PASSENGERS WERE THOROUGHLY RELAXED WITH THE COMPANY GUARD ON BOARD...
I'LL DIM THE LIGHTS, FOLKS...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET SOME SHUT-EYE!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S VERY WISE, JIMMY, IF...
AH, IT'S OKAY.. YOU'LL BE ON GUARD! TURN 'EM DOWN, DRIVER!


THE LIGHTS WERE LOWERED AND THE INTERIOR OF BUS WAS CAST INTO A SHROUD OF DARKNESS! EVERYBODY SLEPT...EVERYBODY BUT THE DRIVER, THE GUARD... AND...

I GOT HER...
EEEEEEKK!!

I... I ONLY GOT UP TO... TO...
YEAH...I KNOW WHY YOU GOT UP!

HANG ON TO HER, PHIL...I'LL TURN UP THE LIGHTS!
YEAH... LET'S SEE WHAT SHE WAS UP TO!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE PASSENGERS... THEY'RE ALL... ALL...
A PILE OF BONES, JIMMY...

...JUST AS YOU AND THIS SNOOPING FEMALE WILL SOON BE!
PHIL... YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF...
AAARRRGGNH!
THE END